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NEWS RELEASE

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**State Announces Grants for Community Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Projects**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare announced conditional grant awards for community mental health and substance abuse projects this week. Eight awards were offered and recipients have until December 1 to accept or decline the grant conditions.

In the 2006 Legislative Session, lawmakers appropriated \$2 million from the General Fund for the Community Mental Health Program for state fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The one-time development grants are to be coordinated through the Regional Mental Health Boards.

The boards identified an unmet need in their region and collaborated with community partners to develop a plan to best meet that behavioral health need. Transitional housing, health care provider training and telecommunications, substance abuse treatment, respite care, and crisis intervention were identified as community needs.

Projects were evaluated on four criteria: community/organizational support and collaboration, scope of work; sustainability and budget. Not all regions submitted applications and some regions submitted proposals for more than one project. The approved projects are listed below.

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1. **Early Intervention and Crisis Intervention for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (\$41,000).** This project will improve early intervention and crisis treatment for adults diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse, including training of a Crisis Intervention Team in Bingham County.
2. **Transitional Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (\$528,916).** This grant was awarded to increase transitional housing for adults with serious mental illness in Idaho Falls and Bonneville County by developing 13 additional housing beds.
3. **Emergency Department Safe Room, Provider Education and Telecommunications (\$73,830).** An award will provide additional resources to treat adults with serious mental illness and substance abuse by constructing a hospital safe room in north Idaho, providing risk assessment education to health care providers, and improving communications in rural areas through telecommunications technology.
4. **Community Detoxification Facility (\$500,000).** In Ada County, a grant will provide for construction and operation of a 12 to 36 bed detox facility with a sobering station for adults requiring these services.
5. **Crisis and Transitional Housing Beds for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (\$550,000).** This grant was awarded to build a nine-unit apartment building in Lewiston to serve adults with serious mental illness. Eight transitional units will be available to avoid hospitalization, jail or homelessness, and one acute crisis unit will provide an alternative to hospitalization.
6. **Telehealth Communications Technology (\$21,600).** Latah and Nez Perce counties and a local medical center will partner to develop a telemental health communications system to expand health care communication and education for those diagnosed with serious mental illness.
7. **Expansion of Respite Care System (\$33,323).** A grant will fund a project in Moscow to expand the respite care system for families with children diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance.

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8. **Transitional Housing (partial award \$251,330).** A partial award in Coeur d'Alene would help develop transitional housing units for adults diagnosed with serious mental illness. Residents could stay for up to two years in the facility, where they would be linked to services to increase skills and independence.

Award recipients must submit a letter of intent and sign a grant agreement to receive the funds. Grant agreements will be finalized by January 3, 2007 and funds must be used by June 30, 2008.

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(Editors: For more information please contact Ross Mason, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Public Information Officer, 208-334-0693 (office) or 869-1751 (cell).